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A Guide

to the

British Museum

London.

[ 1850 ]

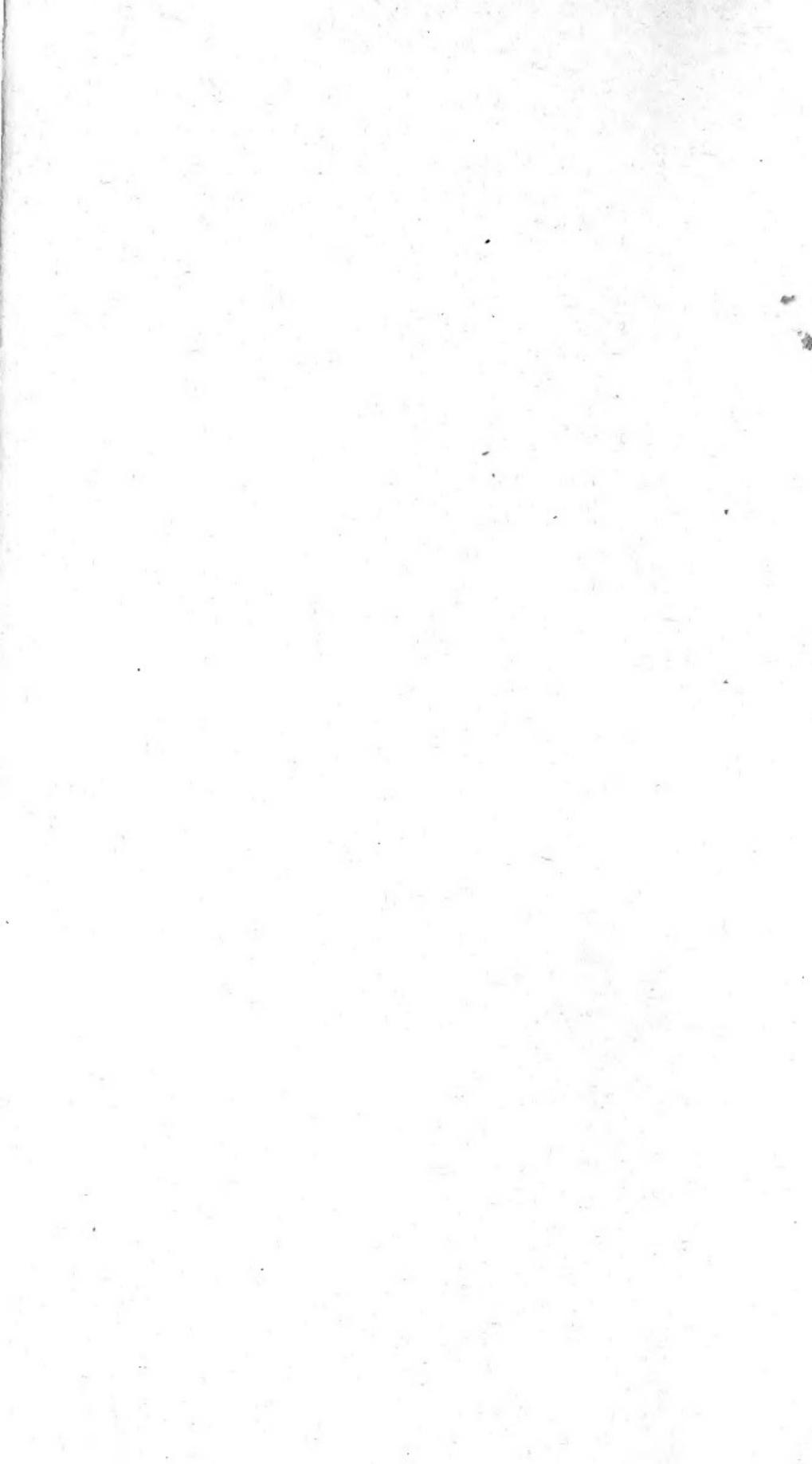
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BY THE AUTHOR OF  
“HINTS UPON TINTS,” &c. &c.

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LONDON:

J. H. STARIE, 59, MUSEUM STREET.

*(Price Sixpence.)*



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[Henry Warren]

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## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

WE have endeavoured in the following sketch, in some measure, to supply the want which has hitherto been felt by those (and they are by far the most numerous) who visit the British Museum more for amusement than for study,—to gratify curiosity more than for laborious investigation. Its apartments are so numerous and so extensive ; so filled with objects, curious and interesting, so capable of conveying information and affording entertainment, of gratifying the scientific taste of the few and satisfying the curiosity of all ; that although its contents may be systematically arranged and properly classified, it no doubt often happens that they who come unaccompanied by a catalogue to take a rapid and casual survey of such a multitude of objects, collected from all parts of the world, and produced at various times in the world's history, feel more often bewildered than amused, perplexed rather than instructed, and wearied when they should be excited ; for, comprising as it does such a variety in almost every department of natural history and the fine arts, of which a mere catalogue would be quite cumbersome in size and expensive in price, seem to require weeks of methodical study rather than hours of hasty inspection. Even the synopsis, which, from repeated additions and alterations

in the Museum, is necessary to be annually renewed, is found to be too large for those (and they are by far the greater number) who have not the opportunity, and perhaps in some cases the inclination, to repeat their visit.

Under this persuasion, we have endeavoured to produce one which shall not deter the visitor from its purchase by its price, nor from the perusal by its length. And if it satisfy not the enquiries of the few who come for the purpose of study, it may at least tend to excite the curiosity of others who come only for amusement.



THE  
BRITISH MUSEUM.

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ITS ORIGIN ;  
AND INFORMATION RESPECTING THE ADMIS-  
SION TO ITS VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

BEFORE giving a sketch of the contents, it may be interesting to the stranger to be acquainted with an outline of the general arrangements of an institution, of the possession of which, this country may well be proud ; constituting, as it undoubtedly does, one of its noblest ornaments, whether considered in the moral or intellectual bearing on its population generally, in cultivating a taste for pleasure of a refined and instructive nature, or in regard to its importance in promoting the studies of those devoted to the pursuit of science, literature, or the fine arts.

It may be said to have been formed by Sir Hans Sloane ; for it was not until the bequest of his valuable Museum to the nation, that a public receptacle was granted for the wonders of nature and art ; in which the liberal antiquary or naturalist, after a life spent in collecting, and the intelligent traveller after a life spent in exploring, may safely deposit his curiosities, for a nation's good, and receive in return a nation's thanks. The collection of Sir Hans Sloane, cost him £50,000 ; and was purchased by the government for £20,000, in addition to which, many other valuable collections were procured, and arranged in one of the most splendid mansions in the metropolis, formerly belonging to the Duke

of Montague ; which was opened to the public in 1753 : since which, many and great additions have been made by donations and purchases.

This noble edifice, which is situate in Great Russell Street, is in the Parisian style of architecture, was designed, it is said, by Peter Puget, who was sent from Marseilles for the purpose. It has since been necessary to make very extensive additions, which are now nearly completed, from designs by Mr Saunders. In the eastern wing of these new buildings, on the ground floor, is deposited the Royal Library ; over which is the Long Gallery, containing minerals and secondary fossils. The western wing contains the Grand Central, Egyptian, Phygalion, and Elgin Saloons ; and the end building, connecting the two wings, is devoted to other antiquities, comprising the Mummies, &c.

## THE GROUND FLOOR

of the whole building, including the old as well as the new, besides ten rooms containing the Greek and Roman Antiquities, the Four Saloons, Royal Library, and Medal Room, consists likewise of sixteen rooms in which are deposited the Old Library of Printed Books, the number of which are fast increasing, from the necessity which authors are under of presenting one copy of their work, within one month after publication. These rooms, the range of which may be seen in perspective through a glass door in Room 5. of the Gallery of Antiquities, are not open to the public generally, except under certain regulations. Admission is granted to the

## READING ROOM,

which is open every day from 10 till 4, except on Sundays, the Christmas, Easter, and Whitsun weeks, 30th of January, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and the 5th of November ; as well as any Fast or Thanksgiving Day. Those desirous of frequenting this room are re-

quired to produce a recommendation from some individual of respectability, and send such with their own name, rank, or profession, and residence, to the principal Librarian; which office is at present filled by Sir Henry Ellis.

In this spacious room, which is well lighted and lofty, he may sit and study, undisturbed by any noise, save the scratchings of pens and the rustling of book leaves; and he may walk unnoticed to his place through rows of pale-faced authors, translators, compilers, and transcribers; all too abstracted, and bending too intently over their black-letter books and illegible manuscripts, to observe any approach save the loaded porter bringing the fresh piles of books, or any other sound save the thrilling notes of the clock which, as it warns them of departing time, serves to increase the anxiety of their countenances and quicken the motion of their pens.

There are seats in this room for about one hundred and twenty; but on an average it is, perhaps, frequented each day by nearly three hundred persons: one is giving place to the other; while some are there during the whole time the doors are open, and even then close their books with reluctance. The shelves in this apartment contain Encyclopædias, Lexicons, Grammars, Biographical Dictionaries, Commercial Histories, and Papers printed by order of the House of Commons; as well as the general catalogue of books comprising about fourteen folio *tomes*, each one of which is sufficiently heavy to require no little effort to raise it.

### THE MEDAL ROOM,

which is also on the same floor, is not open to the public generally; but admission is to be obtained on the same terms as to the Reading Room. It contains a large collection of Ancient and Modern Coins and Medals; many of which are from the cabinets of Sir Hans Sloane and Sir Robert Cotton. His late Majesty, George the Fourth, made a splendid donation to this room.

## THE PRINT ROOM,

which is next the room containing the collection of British Birds, is another of the exclusives ; but may be viewed on application, with reference, to the Keeper of Drawings and Prints. The Rev. C. M. Cracherode and Richard Payne Knight, Esq., bequeathed, it is said, the most important part of this collection ; which, besides Engravings from the Italian, Flemish, French, and English Schools, comprise likewise a valuable series of Etchings by Rembrandt ; as well as a great number of Drawings by the Old Masters. A great part of the engravings of the English school are from the works of Sir Joshua Reynolds, mostly in mezzotinto. Both drawings and engravings are beautifully mounted on thick paper, and bound handsomely in folio volumes.

The days for viewing this collection are the same as those for the Reading Room.

## THE FIRST FLOOR,

besides the Print Room, consists of the Long Gallery and thirteen other rooms ; the Second, Third, and Fourth of which are devoted to the collection of Dried Plants from Sir Joseph Banks's and Sir Hans Sloane's collections ; the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh to Sir Joseph Banks's Library ; neither of which rooms can be entered without special permission from the principal Librarian, with reference. We have now finished the sketch of those apartments the doors of which are open only to the select : we come now to those which we shall call

## THE PUBLIC APARTMENTS,

which are open to all of decent and orderly appearance : but still, at select times, viz. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, excepting on those times of public holiday and public leisure which Government has hitherto thought fit times for public exclusion ; and that from an institution which requires much leisure for its pro-

per inspection. These times are the Easter, Whitsun, and Christmas Weeks, the 30th of January, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday, the 5th of November, the whole of September, and on every Fast and Thanksgiving Day making the grand total of days on which the public may view the British Museum to be 132 out of 365. But as the subject is now under the consideration of Parliament, we add no more, leaving the visitor to conjecture the reasons, and determine whether more days ought in justice to be granted to officers *for cleansing*, than to the public for *inspecting* the rooms of a National Museum.

The doors of this establishment being opened at 10 and closed at 4 o'clock, those who come with no intention to renew their visit, as too many do; or if they have the intention, circumstances often arising to prevent, should be within its walls early; both on account of its not being so crowded in the morning, as well as, whatever his expectations may have been, the multiplicity and variety of interesting objects that await his inspection; for the moment the hour for closing arrives, the voice of the porters, like speaking telegraphs, may be heard from gallery to gallery, echoing from room to room; and let him not suppose that after this warning, his exit will be slow, as though he were leaving the rooms of Somerset House Exhibitions; but rather like that from the gallery of the House of Commons, before a division, though with much more civility on the part of its officers; for visitors have never reason to complain of the want of this essential qualification, any more than than that of promptitude and punctuality. The wings on each side as he enters the quadrangle, are the residences of the officers connected with the institution: a passage through the East Wing, leads to the Reading Room. On the right as he enters

### THE HALL,

is stationed an officer, to receive Sticks or Umbrellas, which the visitor commits to his care while in the

Museum: also little children, who may be too young to benefit by the visit, are not allowed to proceed further than the Hall. A glass case in the room to the right, contains one of the original Magna Chartas, and an engraving from it by Pine. On the right, as he again enters the Hall, is a fine specimen, from the chisel of Roubiliac, of our immortal Shakspeare; in a position, we think, savouring a little of the French affectation of the artist, though the execution is fine, even to imitation of the wrinkles in the Silk Stockings. The statue of Sir Joseph Banks, by Chantrey, is a striking contrast to that of the Frenchman. Shakspeare seems delighted with music, and about to commence a dance: Banks, as if wrapt in thought, and employed in solving a problem. On a line with Shakspeare, is the statue of a sculptress, (The Hon. Mrs Damer,) by Westmacotte, the figure she holds in her hand is meant to represent the Genius of the Thames. On the other side of Banks, against the pier, is a Specimen of Hindoo Sculpture, discovered near the banks of the sacred river Nerbudda. Next the Messenger's Room, is an Hippopotamus.

On ascending the Staircase, he may see represented on the ceiling Phæton petitioning Apollo for leave to drive his chariot, by De La Fosse: also landscapes and flowers on the wall; the former by Rousseau, the latter by Baptist Monnoyer. Between the animals on the landing place, is a species of Palm tree. The Musk Ox near it, was shot by Capt. Parry's party, in one of his expeditions to the Polar Seas; who tells us, they defend themselves by their powerful horns against wolves and bears, which they often kill: the Musk Oxen always herd together, and the closer when attacked; and when wounded dart in the most furious manner. The Giraffes on the top of the Staircase, are now less interesting from the opportunity the public have of seeing them in all their beauty of form and grace of attitude, in the Zoological Gardens, in Regent's Park. On the ceiling of the

## FIRST ROOM,

he will see the fall of Phæton, who has overturned his chariot, which is painted also by De La Fosse.

The Cases round this room, contain curiosities from the uncivilized parts of the world.

CASE 1. contains various articles brought by Capt. Parry : Dresses of the Esquimaux from Winter Island, and some articles used by them for domestic purposes, and for warfare. Over this case is a Sledge from Baffin's Bay. In

CASE 2. are Esquimaux Dresses, male and female, upper and lower Garments, from Point Hope : Caps, Boots, Nets, &c. a richly carved Paddle from Tahiti, and a bone-handled Dagger.

CASE 3. Various articles from the Sandwich Islands, collected, as were those in CASE 2, by Capt. Beechey. In the upper part, are Specimens of Cloth made of the Paper Mulberry ; a Harpoon Line made of the skin of the Walrus, and a Sail made of the intestines of the same animal ; also two of its Teeth are here : and Mats, Caps, Bows and Arrows. Over this case are Spears, Arrows, and Harpoons, from the islands in the Pacific Ocean ; and on the side, next the door, are other Spears from Tongataboo.

CASE 4. Dresses made of Sealskins, Sledge-dogs' Harness, some Boots ; and Arrows from Peru.

CASE 5. A Quiver made of Palm Leaves, containing poisoned Arrows ; Bag of Netted Twine ; a Cloak, Straw Hat, Shoes, Spurs, and Stirrups, from Chili ; a pair of Sandals from Ashantee ; and a Hammock from Africa.

CASE 6. Upper part is a Piece of Cloth from Africa, nearly 20 feet long, woven in narrow strips and adorned with borders, and various stellated patterns, produced by discharging the deep colour of the indigo. A Foulah Cloak made of various strips of Cloth, a Musical Instrument from Sierra Leone, and a Cap from the Cape of Good Hope. In the lower part are various articles from Ashantee : on the top of the Case is an African Loom, for weaving the narrow cloth.

CASE 7. Articles from Terra Del Fuego, Baskets, Bladders, Quivers, Bows and Arrows; Rope of a Canoe, a Shell Necklace, &c.

CASE 8. Spurs, Balls, &c. from Patagonia; a Coat of Mail, taken from the body of an Indian, who was shot by some Chilian Indians sent to disperse an incursion of the native tribe, on the West Coast of America: the Armour is formed of Seven Folds of Horse Skin: over the Case are Fishing Spears, from Terra Del Fuego: a Spear from Australasia; a Fish Gig from the South Sea Islands; also a Canoe and Paddle from Behring's Straits; collected, as well as those in Case 7, by Capt. King in his late voyage.

CASE 9. On the two top shelves are Vessels of various sizes, from the Tombs of the aboriginal Peruvians. The lower shelves contain various objects, collected for the most part in Mexico, and purchased from Bullock's Museum; they consist of small Statues, and Fragments of Terra Cetta, Vases in Alabaster, Busts in Basalt, &c. On the lower part of the Case may be seen an Incense Burner, in the form of an owl; the Figure of a Priest with a Snake winding round him; and a Female carved in Larra.

CASE 10. In Shelf 1, are Articles from the Tombs of Children of the ancient Peruvians. Shelf 2.—Vessels from their Tombs; a Vase from Tiaquanco. Shelves 3 and 4.—Mortars, Images, and vessels from the Tombs in the Island of Titicaca; and Five Earthen Images, from Tombs in Vera Cruz. On Shelf 5, is a Vessel in the form of a Llama, from the Temple of the Sun at Cusco.

The other cases contain Articles collected by Capt. Cook from the West Coast of North America, and the South Seas.

CASE 11. Implements used for fishing from Nootka Sound; Waterproof Jackets, made from the intestines of the whale.

CASE 12. Implements used in War; a Screen made from the feathers of an eagle: Knives, Spoons, and

Bowls, Caps and Combs, Bread made from the root of the cassada tree, with an unprepared piece of the same.

CASE 13. Baskets and Matting from the west coast of North America.

CASE 14. Specimen of Sculpture, frightful Masks, &c. Over the last three cases are Harpoons, Javelins, &c. from the western coast of North America and from the South Seas.

CASES 15 and 16. Cloths from Otaheite, for winter and summer, made of the bark of the paper mulberry, a Mourning Dress, a Breast Plate made of feathers, &c. used in war.

CASE 17. Mats and Dancing Apron from Otaheite.

CASE 18. Implements used in Fishing, Plaited Hair, Tattooing Instruments, a Nose Flute, Bread Fruit, Hatchets, &c.

CASES 19 and 20. Cloaks, Aprons, and Helmets, from the Sandwich Islands. Over the last three cases are Drums, Bows, Arrows, and Quivers.

CASES 21 and 22. Various Articles from the Sandwich Islands, Ornamental, &c. Fans, Necklaces, Coverings for the Legs used in dancing, composed of shells, seeds, and teeth.

CASE 23 A Dancing Dress, made of the fibres of the bark of cocoa nuts, Basket Work, &c. from the Friendly Islands. Over this case is a Canoe composed of many picces of wood sewed together from Queen Charlotte's Island, also Paddles of various kinds.

CASE 24. Implements for Fishing, and Articles for Ornaments, made from the thigh bones of a small bird from the Friendly Islands.

CASE 25. Articles from New Zealand.

CASE 26. Ornamental Articles, Musical Wind Instruments, Clubs, Saws, made of shark's teeth, for dissecting the bodies of slain enemies, two Human Hands being those of a slain enemy, tools, &c. from the Sandwich Islands. Over this case is a large Wooden Drum, made of the trunk of a tree.

## ROOMS 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7,

the contents of which we have already mentioned, can only be seen by particular permission. The next open apartment is

### THE SALOON,

the dome of which was painted by De La Fosse, but the subject is so clothed with the darkness usually attending mythological representations, and often so uninteresting to the wondering gazer, that we leave the visitor to determine whether it be the birth of Minerva, or the deification of Isis. The Landscapes by Rousseau, and the Flowers by Baptist Monnoyer. Over the fire place is a fine Hunting Piece, by that pre-eminent animal painter, Weenix. In

Cases 1 to 4 are placed Monkeys, grinning with their usual hideousness, and apparently about to leap with their usual dexterity. Amongst them may be seen that nearest approach to man's image and man's faculties, the Ourang-Outang, commonly called the Man of the Woods. They are found in various parts of Africa, build their huts with leaves and branches, and protect themselves from invasion with clubs and stones. Here also are Lemurs and Bats. Over these cases is placed the Cape Ant-Eater.

CASES 5 to 8 contain some of the *carnivorous* animals. The Malay Bear, the Rattel or Honey Weasels, the European and American Badger. The above are denominated the *Plantigrade*, from their applying the whole of the lower surface of the foot to the ground in walking. Those called *Digitigrade* rest principally on the surface of their toes when walking: such are several Varieties of the Dog Kind, the Prairie Wolf from America, the Arctic Fox and Striped Hyæna. Over these cases may be seen the Ethiopian Hog. In

CASES 9 to 11 are several of the *Carnivorous* animals; such as Domestic and Wild Cats, stuffed with such fidelity to nature as to appear instinct with life. In the

lower part of the case may be seen a Hybrid Animal, born in Atkins's menagerie, partaking both of the lion and tiger; also common and Sea Otters, Brown Tiger, Cape Tiger, and Brazilian Panther. Over these cases is placed the American Tapir.

CASES 12 to 20 contain at the top Porcupines, Marmots, Hares, and common Beaver, two specimens of the Irish Hare. On the bottom part of the case, left hand, are arranged as follows, the Collared Sloths, Kangaroo, the Great Ant-eater, Antelope, Young Giraffe, Spotted Zebra, Wild Boar, and the Big Horned Sheep, under which is the Peccary.

CASE 21 contains a great variety of small animals, chiefly from America, the northern parts of Europe and Asia. Shrew Mice, several of the Weasel Tribe, as the Pole-cat, Martin, common Weasel, and Stoat; the latter animal is brown in summer and white in winter, and produces the beautiful article known by the name of Ermine.

CASE 22 contains the small *digitigrade* carnivorous animals from New Holland, as the Genet and Suricate, also the *Marsupial* animals, as the Opossum from Brazil, the Spotted Weasel, Wombat, Pigmy Opossum, Flying Opossum, and White Kangaroo.

CASE 23. The minor animals in the order *Glires*, as the Water Rat, Pouched Rat, Dormouse, Chinchilla, and a series of Squirrels from various parts of the world. In

CASE 24 are other animals of the same order, the Flying Squirrels, Hares, Rabbits, Porcupines, and Armadillo, the Long-tailed Manis from India, and the Short-tailed Manis from Africa, and that extraordinary animal, the Ornithorhyncus or Duck-billed Platypus from New Holland.

CASES 25, 26, and 27 contain Bats. In case 25, the *Frugivorous* Bats, or those which feed principally on fruit, as the Egyptian Bat, Striped-eared Bats from India. In the other cases, 26 and 27, are the Simple-nosed *Insectivorous* Bats, or those whose principal food

consists of insects, as the Bull-dog Bat, Horse-shoe Bat, and several species of the Molossus.

CASES 28, 29, and 30 also contain several varieties of bats. In case 28, is the Striped Bat, with coloured wings ; and in case 29, the Spectre or Vampire Bat, and Bloodsucking Bat.

## EIGHTH ROOM.

The upright cases, Nos. 1 to 4, and the table cases, contain Impressions from Ancient Seals, royal, baronial, monastic, ecclesiastic, municipal, and private, presented by Mr John Doubleday.

The remaining cases contain various remnants of antiquity, found during excavations in various parts of Italy and Greece, a great many of which are representations of Heathen Divinities ; also Antique Lamps, Dishes, and Cups, and other articles used for agricultural and domestic purposes. A great variety of Greek Vases ; also Egyptian Idols, and many other specimens of Egyptian sculpture, which it would be tedious to enumerate. The Vessels, Vases, and other Domestic Utensils of the Ancient Greeks, will shew the great taste they displayed in the formation of the commonest vessels. Passing again through the Saloon, we arrive at the

## NINTH ROOM,

the arrangement of which does not seem to be quite completed ; as we see a continuation of the Mammalia from the Saloon, the Musk Deer, the Nepaul and Egyptian Goats, and Antelope from Egypt, and Persian Bull and Cow. Above the cases may be seen the Tanned Skin of the Boa, from South America, used by the natives, when thus prepared, for making boots.

The upright cases contain *Amphibia* and *Invertebratae* Animals, preserved in spirits, Reptiles, and some of the *Crustaceous* Animals, Spiders, and Insects. In CASES 1 and 2 are several Specimens of Enormous

Frogs; the true frogs have the ends of their toes converted into a roundish disk, which enables them to climb. The Horned Frogs have their eye-brows extended into horns. Over case 1 is the Nest of a species of Wasp from India. In

CASE 3 are Toads and Salamanders; the latter were once supposed to be insensible to the action of fire. An interesting animal may here be noticed, called the Proteus, from the caverns of Carniola, which never voluntarily approaches day-light. Another of the blind tribe is the Cœcilia or Blind-worm, whose eyes are scarcely perceptible, and, in some instances, are altogether wanting. In

CASES 4 and 5 are Specimens of *Crustacea*, as Crabs, Lobsters, and Wood-lice, in spirits.

CASE 6 contains Scorpions, Taurantulæ, and Acari or Mites; also the *Mandibulated* Insects, those which possess jaws, as beetles, dragon flies, wasps, and ants, shewing the various changes they undergo in passing from the larva to the perfect state. Some Specimens of the White Ant are amongst them.

CASE 7 contains *Haustellated* Insects, or those which live by suction, as butterflies, moths, and flies.

CASE 8. *Annelides*, such as sea-worms, lob-worms, and leeches. In

CASE 9 is the supposed inhabitant of the paper nautilus, named the Ocythoe; here also are Slugs and others that walk on a flat expanded disk, as well as those which inhabit spiral shells.

CASES 10 and 11. Others of the *Gasteropodus Mollusca*.

CASE 12. Animals of the *Bivalve Shells*, Pearl Oyster from the Island of St Christopher, with some fine large Pearls imbedded in their bodies.

CASE 13 contains *Radiated* Animals, such as Sea-stars, or Star-fish, Sea-wigs, and Medusa's Head, which filter the water through their arms, and feed on the mollusca, which are thus separated from it.

CASE 14 contains the Soft Radiated Animals, the Actiniæ Medusa, &c. and various kinds of Sea-pens and Corals.

CASES 15 and 16. Between the windows is the Guana, used as food in the West Indies, the Frilled Lizard, from New Holland, and Sea-snakes. Over this case is an Indian Tortoise of large dimensions.

The Table cases, Nos. 1 to 8, contain the *Brachiuri*, or short-tailed *Crustacea*, as crabs; here may be seen the Swimming Crabs, Telescope Crabs, Freshwater Crabs from the streams of Italy, Asia, and America; also the singular rapid mourning-calling Crabs, peculiar to the torrid regions: they have a singular propensity of holding the large claw in front of the body, which as it moves resembles the act of beckoning to a person at a distance; also when in their holes, in the exclusive possession of which they seem very tenacious, the same claw is used to stop the entrance. Here also are Painted or Land Crabs, which live in holes mostly contiguous to burying grounds, and frequent the sea during the breeding season; also Globular Crabs, Crested Crabs, and Long-legged Sea-spiders. Also Crabs with two hinder pairs of legs on their backs; then come the Death's-head Crabs.

TABLE CASES 5, 6, and 7 contain the *Exochnata*, as Lobsters, Shrimps, Sea-locusts, Rock-lobsters, Plated Lobsters, Crab Lobsters, and the Scorpion Lobsters; the latter so destructive to the roads in India by its excavations; then follow the Freshwater Shrimps, Whale Lice, and Wood-lice; also the King Crab, the style at the end of the body being used by the animal for defence as well as by the Indians for points to their arrows: a large one is over the mantle piece from China.

The second table contains a selection illustrative of the orders and genera of the class *Insecta*, a large collection of which may be seen by particular permission on Tuesdays and Thursdays: they are arranged in cabinets in a separate room.

TABLE CASES 11, 12, and 13 contain kinds of the order *Coleoptera*, or Beetles; but perhaps if we were to give the names of the orders and families by which this numerous tribe is divided, which are neither short in themselves, or few in their numbers, it might possibly

serve but to occupy that place in our circumscribed guide which we profess to devote to objects of more general interest. In

CASES 14 and 15 is the order *Hymenoptera*, or those insects which have four transparent wings, commencing with the family *Tendithredinidae*, in which are Saw-flies of various kinds, Wasps, Bees, and common Hornets. In division M of case 14, and in the whole of case 15, is the order *Lepidoptera*, in which are Butterflies. The visitor may here see some beautiful Specimens of this beautiful insect; a fine species from South America.

CASE 16 contains Moths; the one at the bottom exceedingly large. In division R is the order *Diptera*, or Two-winged Flies, beginning with the *Tipula* or Crane Fly. In division S are Specimens of a singular insect, whose eyes are situated on a pedicle or foot stalk, and also the *Hippobosca Equina* or Forest Fly, thought to be peculiar to the New Forest in Hampshire. *Hemiptera*, the order comprising Bugs; the Field Bug and Bed-bug; also a curious insect in the order *Homoptera*, known as the Chinese Fire-fly, a species of which may be seen with drums attached to the body, by which their chirruping is produced.

## TENTH ROOM.

The first object of curiosity that attracts the notice of the visitor in this room, is the Skeleton of the Indian Elephant: presented by General Sir Jasper Nicolls, and Major General Hardwicke: the Tusks were from another Elephant from Madagascar, and presented by, and adapted to this animal by permission of H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex, the original Tusks, or rather portions of them that were sawn off are on the Mantel-piece.

The cases round this apartment contain a general collection of Reptiles in spirits; to particularize which would fill a volume: so that should the visitor who is more interested in this branch of natural history, than we have from our imperfect sketch, supposed, be disappointed at our meagre selection, he will at least

be consoled by knowing that another book is to be obtained, in which the subject is more amplified.

CASE 1 contains those which have the Body covered with two Shields formed of Bones; often of bony plates imbedded in the skin; as the Tortoise and Crocodile. The former of which, that live on land, have club-shaped feet; as the Tabular Tortoise from the Brazils, which bury themselves in the ground during the winter; and used often by the American Sailors for food. Those which live in water, have their shells more depressed, and their toes furnished with sharp claws: they are of three kinds; the Terrapins withdraw their head and neck between the shells; the chelys bend it back under the side margin of the shell: the other kind have their shell covered with a naked skin: they are often seen preying on human bodies as they float down the Ganges. The Marine Tortoises or Turtles, are distinguished by their feet being compressed and fin-shaped; they live on weeds. The species called *Test Midas* is brought to this country for food. The Imbricated (*Test Imbricata*) afford a fine shell, which ladies know the use of.

The alligators are distinguished from the crocodiles by their not having webbed toes.

CASE 2. contains various Saurian Reptiles or Monitors of the Old World and its Islands. They have the tongue long and deeply forked: and are held in great veneration by the natives, who assert that they give notice of the approach of the crocodile by hissing. Then follows various kinds of Lizards from America; the Swift Lizards from China and Java, are said to run with amazing velocity: in this case is a specimen of one with a reproduced tail, which they often lose in endeavouring to escape from an enemy. In

CASES 3 and 4. are others of the Saurian Reptiles, from America and China. One group, the Hemidactylus, are common in the habitations of India, Egypt, and South America, and are called House Lizards.

CASE 4. contains also several species of Lizards, principally those that have their teeth placed at the end of

their jaws as the Chamelions and Agamæ; which last are in the upper part of the case, and are of many kinds. The Trapeli, or Mutable Agamæ, which are so called from the rapidity with which they change the colour of their skin, are usually armed with scales, as the Yellow Striped Agamæ, Cape Agamæ, &c. The Dragons may be noticed in this case, and are singular from the skin of their sides being extended into wings, which when they leap are expanded, and act as a parachute. Also in the lower part of the case may be noticed the chameleon, which, like several other of the Saurian Reptiles, have the peculiarity of rapidly changing colour. They catch insects by protruding their tongue, which they have the power of doing to a great distance, compared to the size of the animal.

CASE 5 has several species of the Snake Lizards, much resembling the Snake: of these also there is great variety, some with short legs, some with long, some with four legs, some with two, and some with no legs at all.

CASES 6 to 13 contain Serpents; with mouths that can be dilated as to enable them to swallow large bodies entire: which is owing to the manner the lower jaw is attached to the cranium.

CASE 6 contains the pre-eminently Poisonous Serpents, whose upper jaws are furnished with large moveable fangs, which have a groove on the convex edge, for conveying the poison into the wound occasioned by the bite; this poison is secreted in a gland under the eye, a canal carries it to the teeth. The fangs are concealed by a fold in the gums, and behind them are the rudiment of other fangs, to replace the former if lost. The poisonous Snakes have usually large heads and short tails, and the scales of the body rough.

The true Rattle Snakes are interesting from the peculiarity they possess, in the construction of the tail, which ends in a series of horny joints, fitting one into the other, which the animal can shake at pleasure: some of the detached Rattles are in this case. Then follow the Vipers, Adders, and Cylindrical Snakes, some

of which latter have the faculty of dilating the skin of the neck by the extension of the ribs, so as to form a kind of hood over the head. The Indian species have a yellow spot on the back of the neck : they are used by jugglers for their exhibitions. The Coral Snakes are very similar to the last, except that their neck is not dilatable.

CASES 7 to 13 contain a great variety of Tree Snakes from their living much in trees. The Bullheaded Snakes and Boas, which kill their prey by crushing it between the folds of their body, often twisting their tail round the root of a tree to increase the pressure : the Sea Snakes, peculiar to the Seas of Asia and New Holland.

CASES 14 and 15 contain dry specimens of Reptiles. On the upper shelves are specimens of Indian and African Crocodile, and the Crocodile of the Ganges called the Gavial. The crocodile differs from the alligator only in being more slender in body, and the snout more tapering from the forehead : these animals are interesting from the terror they inspire in every living creature, in the locality of their residence, as well as the great and increasing devastations they commit : happily they abound in those uninhabited regions of Africa and America, in those immense rivers that roll through extensive and desolate kingdoms, where arts have never penetrated, where force only makes distinction, and the most powerful animals exert their strength with confidence and security. These deadly creatures have been seen 30 feet long ; their usual size is 18 feet, and are capable of bending their bodies like a bow ; so that the assertion of persons escaping from them by turning out of the right line, must be unfounded. They seldom come on land, but float down the rivers, and seize whatever animal comes in their way ; disappointed in this they conceal themselves among the sedges near the bank, and wait until some animal, bull, tiger, or even man himself come to drink : tigers, often parched with thirst are frequently its victims ; and while drinking, unsuspecting an enemy so near, the crocodile seizes him with a

spring, by teeth and claws ; the tiger with the greatest agility, turns round and forces its claws into the crocodile's eyes, while the latter regardless of pain, plunges with his fierce antagonist into the river, and after struggling for some time, the tiger is drowned. A Negro combats with them on water by guarding one arm with a cow's hide, which arm he presents to the animal who swallows it greedily, the other hand is ready with a knife, which he sticks under its throat several times ; and the water getting into its mouth, the creature is bloated up and dies.

On the lower shelves are arranged a series of Tortoises.

In the Windows are the Rattle Snake, Indian Rock Snake, Mourning Snake, &c.

In the Table cases are arranged a general collection of Radiated Animals.

On the walls between the windows are some species of Rhinoceros ; and over the various cases, are the Horns of various species of Deer.

On the top of the cases are the Skulls of two Elephants and that of a Rhinoceros from India : and also of two Giraffes; under the further window is a specimen of the Tiger Rock Snake.

## THE ELEVENTH ROOM

contains the general collection of fish and corals. In a case over the fireplace is a fine specimen of the Flying Sword Fish, and by its side a piece of Oak Plank pierced by one : this Fish is very common in the Mediterranean and is much esteemed as food by the Sicilians : and sometimes weighs 100 lb. The families of fish are so numerous and in each family such a variety of kinds differing in their structure and habits, that in attempting a description, it is difficult to know where to begin, and more difficult to know where to end, for if we were to lead the visitor from case to case, direct his eye from shelf to shelf, from jar to jar, we should describe, define, enumerate, compare and illustrate, until we had written enough to fill the book at each division in each case.

Among the most interesting he will see in

**CASE 2.** The Wolf Fish, whose jaws are armed with large tubercular teeth. Its gall is used as soap by the Icelanders. The Hand Fish, which have the faculty of inflating their large stomach with air in the form of a balloon.

**CASE 3.** The Pikes, the tyrants of the water, are in this case. They are found in many lakes of Europe, principally in Lapland, where sometimes they grow to the length of eight feet. They are very voracious. To this family belong the Flying Fish, the peculiarities of which are interesting: they abound in those seas situate in the tropical climates; and are seldom larger than a herring. Its greatest enemy is the dorado or dolphin, which pursues it with great velocity; but nature having furnished the little fugitive with two sets of long fins moved by strong muscles, when tired in the water, these are exerted in a different manner, and in a different direction, by fluttering over the water for several hundred yards; by which time they have acquired fresh power for renewing their exertions in the water, to which they again have recourse, unless seized upon when out of water by the tropic bird, which is ever on the wing watching for it; but if it escapes the bird, the dolphin still keeps it in view; until at last, being exhausted, it drops into the mouth of its fierce pursuer.

**CASES 7 and 8.** The Sturgeon, which is a very large though harmless fish. The kind brought to England for food, usually comes from the Baltic. They have been known to weigh 400 lb., are caught with nets, which they often break to pieces; but the instant its head is raised above water, all its activity ceases, and it becomes a spiritless lump.

The Sharks, one of which is near the door, are of all the inhabitants of the deep the fiercest and most voracious. Some have asserted that the white shark weighs sometimes 4000 lb: they grow to the size of nearly thirty feet in length. The mouth and throat are exceedingly large, and capable of swallowing a man with ease: we are told of one found with a human

corpse in its belly. The number of teeth increases with its age; they often exceed one hundred, which they have the power of erecting or depressing at pleasure: when about to seize its prey all this dreadful apparatus is raised, and the animal dies pierced with a hundred wounds in a moment: their eyes are capable of seeing before and behind; they swim so fast as to outstrip the swiftest ships. They are the dread of sailors in hot climates, and swim round the ships ready to devour any who may fall overboard. They are of various kinds.

The Saw Fish, which are thus named from a long spike, armed with bony spines, by which they are enabled to attack large animals; one of these spikes may be seen between the windows.

The Ray is a singular fish, and their kinds are Skate, Torpedo, Thornback, Fireflare, &c., some kinds of which are dangerous to handle. But the species of this tribe resemble each other so closely that the stranger who thinks he is handling a Skate, may of a sudden be struck numb by a Torpedo; and another may suppose he has caught a Thornback, till he is stung by a Fireflare: the latter which is also called the Sting Ray is armed at the end of its tail with a spine five inches long, its side thin and sharp pointed, closely and sharply bearded.

The Lampreys are singular from their sucking power; they leave the ocean and deposit their spawn at the bottom of fresh water rivers; where they make holes, and remove large stones by sticking to them, and throwing them out: they remain until a general birth takes place, and then return with the whole family in triumph to the ocean. In

CASES 9 to 23 are Fish preserved in spirits.

The Table Cases contain a continuation of Radiated Animals.

On the walls round the room are hung the Horns of various Animals; with the names of the animals to which they belong attached to each.

### TWELFTH ROOM.

Here are arranged a collection of British Birds, Shells, and Eggs.

CASE 1. Eagles, one of which has with bloody beak and deathly claws just killed a Rabbit, which is lying mangled beneath them. They are called by the ancients the Birds of Jove, from the great height to which they fly. In the lake of Killarney, on a small island, an Eagle had built a nest, which a hungry peasant resolved to rob of its contents. He accordingly watched the old one away, and swam across; and was returning with the Eaglets tied to a string: but while thus employed, the old Eagles returned, and missing their young, quickly fell upon, and despatched the plunderer, with their beaks and talons. It is said their nests which are built in the most inaccessible cliffs of the rocks, serve them for life, which is often protracted to a hundred years. They have been known to exist five weeks without food.

The next in rotation are the Nocturnal Birds of Prey, Owls: Snowy Owl, Barn Owl, Little Owl, Short and Long-eared Owl. By the power they possess of dilating or contracting the pupil of the eye, they either can take in the faint rays of light at night, or exclude the brighter rays of daylight: the time of their most successful plunder is moonlight; if they sally forth at dusk, they return before it is quite dark; and renew their avocations at daybreak, ceasing before the broad daylight dazzles them with its splendour.

CASE. 10. The *Omnivorous Birds*, or those which live on all kinds of grain, insects, worms and fruit. Amongst these are the Ravens, Carrion Crows, &c. The latter are often mistaken for the Rook: but they differ in the bill, the feathers likewise of the rook being of a more purple and glossy appearance. But the Raven is the largest, and has its bill hooked more; it is very strong, and can endure hunger, cold, heat: very sagacious, can be taught to speak, and even sing like a man; it is busy, inquisitive, and impudent, fond of eating, and much addicted to stealing.

CASES 11 and 12. The *Insectivorous Birds*, or those which feed principally on insects: such are the Thrush, Blackbird, Fly-Catcher, Warbling Red Breast, Wren, Nightingale, the Field and Meadow Lark.

CASES 13 and 14. The *Granivorous* Birds, or those which feed on grain. Amongst these are the Sky-lark, Wood-lark, Titmouse, Bunting, Bull-finches, Green-finches, Sparrow, Chaffinch, Linnet, Redpole, Gold-finches, &c.

CASE 15. The *Zygodactylous* Birds, having their toes in pairs, two before and two behind, as Cuckoos and Woodpeckers. The *Anisodactylous* having three toes before and one behind; as the Halcyons, Chelidonians, and Pigeons.

CASES 16 and 17. The *Gallinaceous* or Poultry Order; those in which the gizzard is the principal instrument for grinding and reducing the grain they eat to a pulp; as the Pheasant, Partridge, and Red Grouse, Black Cock, and Quail.

CASES 18 to 24. The *Waders*; such as the Oyster Catchers, Golden Plover, Heron, Snipes, Sand Piper, the Water Rail, Land Rail, &c. Birds with *Pinnated* feet; as the Red Phalathrope, Gray Phalathrope, Grebe, &c.

CASES 25 to 42 contain the Webfooted Birds; as the Tern, Gull, Swan, Duck, Diver, &c.

The Table Cases, No 8, contain Shells of various animals. The

## THIRTEENTH ROOM

contains a general collection of Birds.

CASES 1 to 12. Birds of Prey, denominated the *Raptorial*, amongst which may be seen the Condor, or Great Vulture of the Andes, the Bearded Vulture of the Alps, whose feathers are often two feet and a half in length; their heads and necks are destitute of feathers; they are found in great abundance in Egypt, Arabia, and the Western Continent. In Egypt they seem to be of great service, as they devour the carrion, which otherwise would tend to putrify the air. They may often be seen in Grand Cairo, accompanied by the wild dogs of the country, tearing a carcass to pieces. In America they follow the hunters, who pursue beasts for their skins; and when they see

one flayed and abandoned, they call out to each other, pounce down upon the carcase, and in an instant pick the bones as bare and clean as if they had been scraped with a knife. Their great enemy is the crocodile, which lays its eggs, from one hundred upwards, in the sands, on the sides of rivers, taking great pains to hide them : but meanwhile, a number of vultures sit silent and unseen on the branches of some neighbouring forest, and view her operations, patiently waiting until she has covered them carefully with sand, and retired to a convenient distance, when all pounce down upon the nest, hook up the sand in a moment, lay the eggs bare, and devour the whole brood.

The family of Griffons, the Noble Falcons and Ignoble Falcons ; as Kites and Hawks : two of the latter are represented as just arrived at their nest, after a capture of two small birds, which they seem about to deliver up to their open-mouthed young ones. So greatly were noble falcons valued in the time of Edward the Third, that to take its eggs, even in a person's own ground, was punished with a year and a day's imprisonment, and a fine at the king's pleasure. But falconry, which was the principal amusement of our ancestors, is now scarcely ever heard of. Their courage is so great that birds, even much larger, are unable to terrify them, their swiftness so great, that few can escape them, and their docility so remarkable, that the commands, or even the signs of their master, are obeyed. But much training is necessary for this, in order to curb down the ferocity of their nature. At the bottom of this case is the Secretary.

CASES 13 and 14 contain the family of Owls.

CASES 15 to 17 contain the Omnivorous Birds, in which is the family of Crows, Paradise Birds from New Guinea, and Starlings. At the bottom of case 15 is a nest of the Jular Jay, with one perched on the side with a cherry in its mouth, which it is about to give its young. The birds of paradise are of various kinds, and are found in the Molucca Islands and New Guinea. The natives sell them to Europeans when killed, salted

and spiced; but not for consumption, but as ornaments and for their beautiful feathers, in order to preserve which, they cut their legs and wings.

CASES 18 to 25 contain the *Insectivorous* Birds. The family of Butcher Birds, Flycatchers, Chatterers, Thrushes, and Warblers. The chatterers are natives of Bohemia, whence they wander in flocks all over Europe; but are seldom seen in the south parts of Britain. Their voice is noisy and garrulous, and may be heard at the distance of more than a mile. There is a fine specimen of the Superb Warbler at the bottom of case 20, and of the Crimson-breasted Barbara Shrike in case 19. At the top of cases 24 and 25 are the Emerald Thrushes, and the Green-breasted Honey-eater. In case 24, on the left, the fifth row from the bottom, the beautiful Black and White Creepers, and Yellow-breasted Creepers, a great variety of Water Thrushes, and lower down the diminutive Wrens.

CASES 26 and 27. *Granivorous* Birds from America.

CASES 29 and 30. The *Tenuirostral* Birds, among which are the Honey-suckers, from New Holland.

CASES 31 and 32. The Dendrocolaptes from South America, and Fissirostral, or those which feed principally when on the wing upon fish and insects. In this order are the family of Swallows. The Swifts, Goat-suckers, and the Bee-eaters are in this order.

CASES 33 and 34 contain the King Fishers, so called from their living on fish, which are caught with no less certainty than expedition; it balances itself at a certain distance above the water, for a considerable space, then darting into the deep it seizes them instantaneously. Of the Humming Birds, there are existing as many as two hundred species, from the size of a small wren to that of a bee.

CASES 35 to 44 contain the *Zygodactylous* Birds, amongst which are Parrots, Paroquets, viz. the Red-shouldered, the Blossom-headed, Blossom-crested, Blue-crested, Abyssinian, &c. Also Woodpeckers, Cuckoos, some of which, in case 40, are exquisitely beautiful; as the Gilded Cuckoo, &c. The Barbets, Toricans, and

Hornbills. At the bottom of case 41 are the beautiful Violet Plantain-Eaters.

CASES 45 to 57 contain *Gallinaceous* Birds, which lay their eggs on the earth, as Pheasants, Peacocks, Partridges, and Grouse.

CASES 58 to 60 contain Wading Birds, among which is the family of Herons, Storks, and Snipes. The Heron genus consists of not less than eighty-two species. The common Heron is very light, but exceedingly rapacious, cowardly, and indolent. They are the great terror of fishes, those too large to take away, it will strike at and wound. They feed principally on the small fish, of which it is said to destroy more in a week than an otter in three months: so that fish driven to the shallow waters by the greater ones fall a sacrifice to the heron. The Storks are birds of passage. In

CASES 65 and 66 is a large Ostrich, with its Eggs laying by its side. This is considered as the largest of birds, and was known previous to the time of Moses, as we find its flesh interdicted by the Jewish Legislator. It is peculiar to the torrid regions of Africa.

CASES 68 to 71. The family of Cranes and Rails is the next in order: among the latter are the Screamers, remarkable for the Horn in the centre of the Head.

CASES 72 to 80 are the Water Birds, including the family of Ducks and Swans, Geese and Divers; which latter live on the surface of the water and subsist on fish, for which they dive: with such confidence do they rely on this peculiarity that they often approach the boats of fishermen. They are very common in the Orkney Islands; and are said to carry their young under their wings when alarmed.

CASES 81 and 82. Pelicans: these are slothful and voracious; and abound in Africa and America. They are only excited to activity by the stimulation of hunger; and when under this sensation they with difficulty raise themselves about thirty feet above the surface of the sea and continue to fly over it with the head turned on one side, and when a fish is discovered they dart down upon it with the swiftness of an arrow, seize it with unerring

certainty and store it up in their pouch; which they continue to do, until their bag, which in some will contain fifteen quarts of water, is full, when they return to land, to devour and digest at leisure: but their hungry call arrives again before night, and again they reluctantly go to their labour.

The Darter has a very small body and a very long neck, and is very expert in catching fish, and in terrifying the passengers: for in Java and Leghorn, they sit on the shrubs that overhang the water, and on the approach of any one, dart out their long necks to the dismay of the obtruder, who thinks of nothing but poisonous serpents.

CASES 84 and 85 contain the Petrels; which have the faculty of spouting out a large quantity of pure oil from their bills, into the face of any one attempting to take them: which oil is esteemed by the inhabitants of the north, where they abound, as a sovereign remedy for many complaints. They assemble on a Whale when it is taken, and pick out large lumps of fat, in despite of all endeavours to keep them off. They keep out farther at sea than any other Water Bird: and during tempests often seek refuge on ships.

Gulls, which are sometimes seen slowly sailing over rivers, watching for fish, and sometimes following the ploughman, to pick up insects. It abounds most in the north; It has the fierceness of an Eagle in defending its young; and when the natives attack its nest they hold a knife above their heads, on which the unfortunate bird falls, instead of the scull of the invader.

The Tern is called the Sea Swallow, having the same actions at sea, as the Swallow has on land: seizing every insect that appears on the water's surface, and darting with incredible rapidity on the smaller fishes.

Over the Door adjoining the Twelfth Room, is a Portrait of a rare Bird called the Dodo, a native of the Isle of France. The bill being of an extraordinary length and thickness, makes the Bird appear when gaping, to be all mouth.

The Table Cases contain a general collection of Shells, the great variety and singularity of which, no doubt the Visitor will admire; but a lengthened description of which, doubtless he would pass over. We therefore reserve the place it would occupy, for a short notice of those beautiful and wonderful works of art to which we shall soon conduct the Visitor. He first will enter the

### LONG GALLERY,

in which are arranged, in upwards of sixty cases, a collection of Minerals; and as each case has legibly written on its side the orders by which the metals are distinguished, it will render it unnecessary for us to insert them.

The secondary fossils arranged in cases round the room, must be generally interesting, being, it is scarcely necessary to add, the osseous remains of animals dug out of the earth, many of which are said to have existed before the flood. Among them may be seen in the class *Reptilia*, the bones of animals in the order *Emydosaurian* and *Enaliosaurian*, amongst which is part of the head of the Crocodile and Gessaurus; the lower jaw and part of the cranium and vertibræ of a huge reptile from St Peter's Mountain, called Morosaurus; also the head of that enormous antediluvian Ichthyosaurus, and part of the head of another of still larger dimensions, cut transversely to show the internal structure of the jaws; and a smaller species of the same found in the county of Nottingham, twelve feet below the earth's surface; also a perfect specimen of the Plesiosaurus, from Lyme Regis. In the order *Batrachian* is the gigantic Salamander.

The two upright glass cases of the centre compartment of the left wall, entering from the gallery, contain the Osseous Remains of the orders *Edentata* and *Pachydermata*. In the former order are Casts from various parts of the skeleton of the *Megatherium* or Great Monster: the bones of which were discovered in South America, on one of those great plains washed by the

river Parama and its tributaries, where the greater part of the remains of those enormous animals which have lately been brought to London, have been found, usually sunk in the mud or alluvial soil. The above animal is not thought to have a trunk like the elephant, the length of the vertebræ seeming to prove that its neck was sufficiently long to allow of its feeding without it. The circle of bones which extend from haunch to haunch, is upwards of five feet in breadth; yet the animal is thought not to have been more than seven feet in height, which is short compared to its breadth: but the processes of the bones in the extremities indicate great muscular strength. This case contains also the Cranium, Jaws, Teeth, and Tusks of the Elephant, called by the early writers the Mammoth. Between these cases is to be seen the Fossil Human Skeleton, imbedded in lime-stone, brought from Guadalupe by Admiral Lord Cochrane.

The upright Glass Cases on each side of the northern entrance into the gallery, contain a collection of Fossil Vegetable Remains, with coloured casts in plaster of Paris, that their forms might be more distinctly perceived.

Against the wall to the right, on entering the gallery, is deposited in glass cases a collection of Minerals from the Hartz Mountains.

The Sculptured Tortoise, in the middle of the gallery, was found on the banks of the Jumna in Hindoostan; it is wrought out of nephrite or Jade.

Between the cases 6 and 7, under a glass cover, is a specimen of Native Silver from Norway; and on the left hand, on entering the gallery, a specimen of Sand-stone from Saxony, marked with the supposed tracts of unknown animals; and underneath is a specimen of Entrochal Marble from Derbyshire.

The Paintings arranged round the gallery having the names of the individuals of whom they are representations thereto attached, it will be useless for us to describe. Those at the lower end of the gallery are portraits of Newton, Bacon, Shakspeare, Pope, Locke,

Voltaire, Rousseau, Luther, and Baxter. The Stone Staircase, at the end of the gallery, leads to the

### ROYAL LIBRARY,

formed by George the Third, and presented to the nation by George the Fourth. It is the most extensive ever collected by a Sovereign, consisting of 65,900 volumes, and embracing almost every species of knowledge. They are systematically arranged in 304 presses.

The Tables contain, in 124 cases, a splendid collection of Atlasses; in which, besides maps of every part of the globe, are numerous Plans of Towns, &c.

To gain the

### GALLERY OF ANTIQUITIES,

the visitor must retrace his steps through the Long Gallery and Saloon to the bottom of the Great Staircase, and then turn to the right. Over the door in the

### FIRST ROOM,

is the Bust, by Nollekens, of Charles Townely, Esq. from whom government purchased the greater part of the collection of Terracottas and Marbles, to which we now are about to direct the attention of the visitor; promising that we only profess to notice those that we consider the most interesting; and that more for the beauty of form and delicacy, and correctness of execution therein displayed, than for their rarity or antiquity.

Students or amateurs in art are allowed to draw from the Statues, &c. in these Galleries, by permission of the principal Librarian, with reference. The rules to be observed are hung up in this room; there might be, we think, in behalf of the law bound students, a request added to these rules, that visitors would avoid standing before the students, more than the proper inspection of the statues renders it necessary, which we know from

experience is often inadvertently done by the fair visitor, to the discomfiture of the poor artist.

The Terracottas which this room contains are often passed by the generality of visitors with but very slight notice : yet upon minute examination they will be found to be highly interesting, affording as they do, evidence of the great superiority of the ancients in this style of art. In many of the Bas-reliefs, especially Nos. 45 and 46, we see, although in so small a scale, the power and spirit of expression, a natural grace and ease of attitude, and beautiful execution. See

No. 12. Representing a Female apparently overwhelmed with sorrow, in which her attendants seem to participate.

### SECOND ROOM.

No. 2. A Funeral Urn, on which are represented Pedestrian and Equestrian Combatants, carved with great spirit.

No. 4. A Statue of a Female, used by the ancients as a column : it is beautiful.

No. 5. A Candelabrum.

Nos. 7 and 9. Vases surrounded by Bacchanalian Figures in low relief.

No. 8. Statue of Venus ; found in the Maritime Baths of Claudius ; this is most exquisitely beautiful : the fleshy look of the breast and right arm, as well as the beauty of the expression, and the natural and correct execution of the complicated folds of the drapery, must qualify the expression we have used.

Nos. 19 and 20. Colossal Head of Hercules.

### THIRD ROOM.

No. 4. A bas-relief representing the Indian Bacchus received as a guest by Icarus ; at the outer court of his dwelling, which affords a good representation of the external portions of a Greek dwelling.

No. 15. A bas-relief of the Centaur Nessus, with Deianira in his arms ; beautifully natural ; and the whole is executed with great spirit.

No. 22. A Statue of Venus ; the arms of this beautiful, chaste, and exquisite work of art, have been restored : which, upon attentive examination, will be found destitute of that fleshy appearance which is given to the other parts.

No. 23. A bas-relief representing the Deification of Homer, who is seated on a throne, at the foot of Mount Parnassus. On the upper part is Jupiter, from whom the muses are obtaining permission to pay divine honours to the bard. In the second part their object is represented, and sanctioned by Apollo ; and in the third it is put in execution. This piece of sculpture once occupied a distinguished place in the Columna Palace, and was one of the principal points of attraction to the learned in all countries.

No. 24. Statue of a Fawn ; the limbs have been restored, and in the restoration, the artist placed a pan-pipe into the hands.

No. 25. A fine Head, thought to represent Homer.

No. 31. A remnant of a Group of Boys, who have quarrelled whilst playing at *tali*, or *dips*, which are lying about ; one is grasping the other's arm and biting it.

No 45. Actaeon attacked by dogs.

#### FOURTH ROOM,

which is a circular domed vestibule, forming apparently the centre of the gallery.

No. 1. Bust of Trajan.

No. 5. Statue of Thalia, found in the baths of Claudius.

No. 11. Statue of Diana : the drapery in this as well as the former one, is exceedingly fine.

#### FIFTH ROOM

contains Roman Sepulchral Urns and Vases.

No. 12. A Sepulchral Urn, found in a tomb near Naples.

No. 13. A Sarcophagus, on which is represented the lamentation of a family over a female corpse. Opposite this room is a building containing a large collection of Casts, chiefly architectural, belonging to the late Sir Thomas Lawrence. The Book placed at the entrance is that in which students write their names each day they come to draw. In the centre of the room, under a glass case, is a beautiful Bas-relief, the figures of which, are very excellent.

## SIXTH ROOM

contains a continuation of Greek and Roman Sculptures:

Nos. 1 to 14. are Bas-reliefs taken from the front of Sarcophagi; No. 12 is the most worthy of notice, being very spirited. It represents a Bacchanalian procession.

Nos. 19 and 24. Altars of Roman work, ornamented with Egyptian figures: upon the latter is a Satyr.

No. 20. A Torso of a small statue of Venus.

Nos. 26 and 31. Figures of Victory, sacrificing Bulls.

No. 27. A Bust of Hadrian.

No. 28. A Bas-relief representing a female Bacchante clothed in thin flowing drapery, through which the beauty of her form is distinctly seen: upon it is the head of a child.

No. 34. A Bronze Statue of a Roman Emperor.

No. 40. A fine Statue of Libera.

No. 44. The Head of Nero.

No. 47. A highly animated Head of one of the Homeric heroes.

No. 64. The front of a Votive Altar, on which is an inscription praying for the safe return of Septimius Severus and his family, from some expedition. It is supposed the part erased contained the name of Geta, which name the Emperor Caracalla had, by an express edict, ordered to be erased from every inscription throughout the Roman Empire.

## SEVENTH ROOM.

In this small apartment are several Pigs of Lead interesting from their having the names of several of the Roman Emperors inscribed on them.

*The Eighth Room is closed.*

On the right hand is a flight of stone stairs, leading to the

## NINTH ROOM,

and another Room containing various Antiquities collected by Sir William Hamilton.

In the centre of the Ninth Room, on the top of the stairs, is placed on a table

No. 1. The celebrated Portland or Barberini Vase, which is a most exquisite and unmutilated specimen of Grecian workmanship. The material on which the graceful and animated Bas-relief figure is laid is thought by some to be a sort of vetrified paste, by others glass or stone: but how they were so firmly and neatly united with the ground work, we leave the Visitor to conjecture. It was found about the middle of the sixteenth century near Rome, enclosed in a Sarcophagus within the monument of the Emperor Alexander Severus. It was for more than two centuries, in the palace of the Barbarini family, where it was considered as one of the chief ornaments. Its next possessor was Sir William Hamilton; then the Duke of Portland, who in 1810 deposited it in the British Museum.

Nos. 2, 4, and 5, consist of Ancient Paintings in fresco, No. 2, found in a subterraneous chamber near Rome. In

CASE A, under the window, are Antiquities from Persepolis, Babylon, and Nineveh.

CASE B. Antiquites found by Sir Robert Ker Porter, in Persepolis, Babylon, &c.

SHELVES C. Antiquities from Nineveh.

SHELVES D. Antiquities from Babylon. In the

## TENTH ROOM

is the collection of Sir William Hamilton; with additions from Mr Townley's, Mr Knight's and Rev. C. Cracherode's collections.

The UPRIGHT CASES, in the centre of the room, contain beautiful Greek Vases, many of which were found in sepulchres in the kingdom of Naples: many are ornamented with mythological paintings.

THE FLAT CASES, under these, contain a large and interesting collection of Roman Antiquities, Domestic Utensils, Implements used in warfare, Ornaments, Ancient Paintings, &c.

The upright Cases, against the walls, contain also Roman Antiquities.

CASE 6 contains specimens of Ancient Glass: the principal articles are eight Cinerary Urns. One has the leaden covering in which it was preserved. Another contains the burnt bones and the asbestos cloth which prevented the ashes of the body from mixing with those of the funeral pile. The specimens in this case show us how ingenious were the ancients, not only in the manufacture, but in the colouring of glass.

CASE 11. Gems, a piece of small Mosaic Work, and a few specimens of ancient art executed in silver.

CASE 15. Fragments in Terracotta.

CASES 17 and 26. Hindoo, Chinese, and Japanese Idols.

## ELEVENTH ROOM.

On the left wall, on entering, are Sepulchral Monuments in bas-relief, from Nos. 1 to 13.

No. 16. An Intoxicated Fawn: this statue is often copied by students, on account of the beautiful display of anatomical details, which are thought to be very correct.

No. 18. Statue of a Fawn.

No. 19. Statue of a Discobolus, said to be a very fine production, copied from a bronze statue by Myro;

this is often drawn from by students, who find it exceedingly difficult, on account of its unnatural attitude. But the wonderful skill and knowledge displayed in the anatomy well repays a careful study.

- No. 21. Statue of Mercury sleeping on a rock.
- No. 23. Statue of Cupid bending his bow.
- No. 38. Head of Demosthenes.
- No. 43. A shelf containing, next to the Head of a Boy, a Bust of *Ælius Cæsar*.

### TWELFTH ROOM.

The contents of this room being chiefly Heads, Busts, and Masks, of which more is not known than that some are Heads of Gods and Goddesses, to detail which will not be interesting, so after directing the visitor's attention to

No. 11, which contains a small Bust of Antoninus Pius, we proceed to the

### GRAND CENTRAL SALOON,

in which the visitor will see on the left, in white marble, a fine Statue of Venus, preparing for the bath; and also on the left a Statue of the Emperor Hadrian, in a military dress.

### EGYPTIAN SALOON.

Some of the Antiquities in this apartment were collected in various parts of Egypt, by the French: and upon the capitulation of Alexandria, in 1801, came into the possession of the English army.

In contemplating the fragments of Egyptian workmanship, we cannot but be impressed with a degree of awe and wonder at the greatness and grandeur of their works, of which the remains in this apartment give but an imperfect idea. The physical power, the untiring energy, and the unceasing perseverance, necessary to form such stupendous Pyramids, carve such enormous figures, and yet often to impart to them such

beauty of form, and execute them with such accuracy and spirit, is truly astonishing.

Passing the Lion carved from red granite, we notice, Nos. 2 and 33. Egyptian Obelisks, brought from Grand Cairo; where the latter was used as a door-sill of a Mosque in the castle of Cairo, and seen there by Niebuhr in 1762. There is a beautiful simplicity in the Obelisks, undisfigured as they are by any irregularity, and ornamented with figures of great accuracy of outline.

No. 8. Statue of a Priest, of the royal family of Shishak, standing at an altar.

No. 9. A Colossal Fist: upwards of 10 feet in length.

No. 12. An Egyptian Monument, found in the palace of Carnak.

No. 15. A Colossal Head, found by Belzoni in Carnak.

No. 18, A Colossal Arm, belonging to the same Statue as the Head No. 15.

No. 19. Head of Rameses the Great is a fine specimen of Egyptian art, sculptured from fine grained granite: and taken from Thebes, where it originally stood, but then in a lying position, and much mutilated, it was conveyed by the French to the banks of the Nile, under the direction of Belzoni, and by the request of Henry Salt, Esq. and Louis Burckhardt, who presented it to the Museum. This colossal head which is in height 8 feet 9 inches, was carried down the river Nile to Rosetta and thence to Alexandria, a distance of 800 miles; from which latter place it was embarked for England. It was conveyed one mile and placed in a boat, by means only of fourteen poles, eight of which were used for a car, four ropes of palm leaves and two rollers. The height of the entire figure must have been twenty-four feet.

Nos. 20 and 22. Part of the Friezes of an Egyptian Temple, covered with hieroglyphics.

No. 21. A Colossal Statue of Amenoph III, found in an excavation in the Temple of Memnon.

No. 24. The Rosetta Stone, so called from its being found near Rosetta: it contains three inscriptions, re-

cording the services which Ptolemy the Fifth had rendered his country, and engraved by order of the High Priests, when assembled at Memphis, for the purpose of investing him with the royal prerogative. One of these inscriptions is in hieroglyphics, another in the ancient vernacular language of Egypt, the other in the Greek language.

No. 35. A Painted Statue, found in a sepulchre near the Pyramids.

No. 39. A Stone Sarcophagus, discovered in a tomb at Thebes. It appears to be carved from black granite. All round this apartment are various statues of Bubastes : she is represented in various attitudes ; see Nos. 41, 45, 49, 54, 57, 62, 63, 68, 72, 76, 80, 84, and 88.

Round the Saloon on shelves are various Sepulchral Vases, Tablets, and other Egyptian Antiquities : and underneath them, other Tablets with inscriptions, also Bas-reliefs. Against the wall on the right, on entering the Saloon, are various Fresco Paintings.

### PHIGALIAN SALOON

is that apartment, on the right hand proceeding from the Egyptian Saloon. It contains yet but few objects.

Nos. 1 to 11. Are Bas-reliefs representing the Battle of the Centaurs and Lapithæ.

Nos. 12 to 23. The Combat between the Greeks and Amazons : these were found in the ruins of the Temple of Apollo, near the ancient city of Phygalia in Arcadia.

On the right, is a Torso of Venus, exquisitely fine : near it is an imperfect statue of Hymen.

We now close this sketch by a brief notice of the

### ELGIN SALOON.

This apartment contains those highly finished and pure works of the Grecian Sculptors, which all our most celebrated artists have united in pronouncing as

the finest to be seen in this or any other country ; and of the greatest importance, not only as tending to improve the public taste, but as an enduring and an unrivalled national school of art. Although this collection may be looked upon as the most valuable to the artist, it might not be most interesting to the public. Such is the fragmentary nature of the collection, and such is the elevated character which these fragments are sufficiently perfect to shew, that to enjoy them thoroughly, it is not only necessary that the individual should possess a taste for sculpture, but also of *feeling* for the grand in art, and for that purified simplicity, which are often united in the works of the Greeks. This feeling may be excited, if not created, by frequently and attentively viewing them. It is thus that a real value will be given to them : it is by purifying and elevating the national taste, by holding up a high and enduring standard of excellence to our artists, that they will honour the nation which possesses them, and repay the people who bought them. Most of the sculpture in this saloon originally adorned three of the most splendid edifices that Athens, in the zenith of her grandeur, possessed : these were the Parthenon, or temple of Minerva, the Erechtheum, and the Propylaea. The erection of her most splendid buildings was committed to Phydius, the greatest architect and sculptor that probably ever lived : and it is supposed, that many of these works, which the Earl of Elgin has been the means of rescuing from the destroying hands of the Turks, who, it is said, pounded some to dust to make lime, were designed and even carved by him. The most celebrated are the two in the middle of the saloon.

No. 93. Statue of Theseus, an Athenian hero : he is represented as half reclined on a rock, which is covered with a lion's skin, as if resting after some great exertion ; extraordinary breadth and grandeur, as well as profound knowledge of anatomy, are displayed in this figure. The same may be stated of

No. 99, which is supposed to represent Ilissus, the River God.

Upon the walls are arranged, in the order in which they were found in the Parthenon, various specimens of sculpture, in high and low relief, but greatly mutilated, but still enough is preserved to shew the great and unrivalled excellence of the Grecian sculptors.

Nos. 1 to 16 are Metopes ornamenting the frieze of the entablature surmounting the colonnade: they represent the battle between the Centaurs and the Athenians.

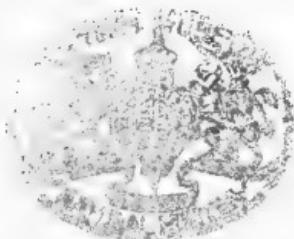
Nos. 17 to 90 composed the exterior frieze of the Parthenon, which embellished the upper part of the walls, within the colonnade, and was continued entirely round the temple. They represent the sacred procession which took place at the great Panthenæa; a festival which was celebrated every fifth year, at Athens, in honour of Minerva.

No 92. The Heads of two of the Horses belonging to the car of Hyperion.

No. 95. Statue of Iris, messenger of the celestial deities, represented in quick motion, as if in haste to communicate to the distant regions of the earth the important intelligence of the birth of Minerva.

No. 98. The Head of one of the Horses belonging to the chariot of Night, which was represented as plunging into the ocean.

Round the Saloon, against the walls, are Fragments of bas-reliefs, and Greek Inscriptions, but few of which can be explained. Also Sepulchral Urns; and Columns from the various temples in Athens.



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